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SCIENCE

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THE OUTLOOK IN CHEMISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES¹

It is the highest privilege of the president of the American Chemical Society to express to you, citizens of Boston, the society's deep appreciation of your interest in our science and of your courtesy in providing entertainment for our numerous membership. In token of the reality of this appreciation, no less than in recognition of the honor bestowed upon me by you, my fellow members in the society, it is my pleasant duty to address you on some subject which might interest you as an important phase of chemistry or which might bring home to you as thoughtful citizens of this great country of ours some of the important functions which our science may be expected to fulfil in the life of the nation. It is the president's happy privilege also to select his own subject. In normal times, I confess, I should have enjoyed the pleasure the scientific man finds in riding his own hobby before a large and friendly public and I should have been tempted to try to present to you some phase of those wonderfully intricate worlds of atoms and molecules and of the forces controlling them, on which the peculiar power of our science rests. But the spirit of complete preoccupation in the great test to which our country is being put, which I know pervades the minds and souls of all of you, has led me rather to the choice of a subject of more immediate relation to our present situation. I have thought you might be interested in a discussion of the outlook in

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¹ President's address delivered before the American Chemical Society, September 12, 1917, at Boston.